



Fact Sheet

Board of Equalization Member Michelle Park Steel
Third District

가주 조세형평국 미셸 박 스틸 제 3 지구의원

The Nation's Only Elected Statewide Constitutional Tax Authority

For Immediate Release

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Introduction

On November 7, 2006, Board Member Steel received over one million votes making her the highest ranking elected Korean American in the United States.

Board Member Steel represents over 8.5 million people in the counties of Orange, San Diego, Riverside, Imperial, and portions of San Bernardino and Los Angeles.

According to the US Census, there are about 190,000 Korean Americans residing in the third district.

Board Member Steel's Commitment to the Korean American Community

Staff: Board Member Steel has appointed two Korean Americans to serve on her staff—Elizabeth Maeng as Tax Counsel and Peter Kim as Senior Assistant to the Board Member.

Internship Opportunities: Board Member Steel launched an internship program where over ten students participated in 2007. There were three Korean American interns who successfully completed the internship and gained valuable experience and learned important leadership skills.

California Redemption Value Signs: In response to the need of the Korean American community, Board Member Steel created a California Redemption Value Sign that indicates when a sale of beverages are subject to sales tax, the CRV Charge will also be subject to sales tax. Many Korean American merchants requested such a sign because limited English speaking merchants were not able to clearly explain to consumers about the additional sales tax.

Korean American Business Tax Advisory Commission: Board Member Steel appointed over twenty Korean American members to her business tax advisory commission demonstrating her commitment to the Korean American small business community. The commission meets every quarter and discusses tax issues by formulating and recommending any policy changes that may benefit the community.

Advocate for the Korea-US (KORUS) Free Trade Agreement: Board Member Steel in cooperation with the United States Chamber of Commerce hosted a business roundtable with then-US Deputy Trade Representative Karan Bhatia to discuss the importance of the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement. Letters expressing the Board Member's support were sent to the Congressional leadership and members of the House Committee of Ways and Means. In addition, this year Board Member Steel invited US Trade Representative Susan Schwab to Koreatown to build support with Korean American community groups to encourage and lobby the United States Congress to swiftly pass the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement.

Member of the Korean American Elected Officials Coalition (KAEOC): Board Member Steel served as co-host of the first ever meeting of Korean American elected officials in Los Angeles on March 21, 2008. There the coalition signed a joint resolution in support for the Korea-US Free Trade Agreement and copies were sent to the US Trade Representative and the White House. In addition, the Board Member will partner with the coalition to provide workshops for potential Korean American candidates who plan to run for office.

Seminars: Board Member Steel has hosted numerous seminars on behalf of the Korean American community across the state of California. The seminars listed below were all done in the Korean language to assist many non-English speakers who were not familiar with changes to California tax laws. These seminars are addition to seminars done in English for the mainstream community.

Date	Event
March 27, 2007	Basic Sales Tax Seminar co-hosted with the East LA Korean American Grocers Association (KAGRO)
May 24, 2007	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar co-hosted with the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles
September 13, 2007	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar co-hosted with Intelligent Female and the Korean American Businesswomen Association
October 19, 2007	Basic Grocery Sales Tax Seminar co-hosted with Orange County Korean American Grocers Association (OC KAGRO)
March 4 & 6, 2008	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar co-hosted with the Korean American CPA Association in Los Angeles and Orange County
March 27, 2008	Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service (CDARS) Seminar for Korean and Asian American Community Banks co-hosted with the California Independent Bankers
April 10, 2008	Basic Small Business Sales Tax Seminar co-hosted with the Korean American Real Estate Agents and Lenders of Northern California
June 5, 2008	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar co-hosted with Intelligent Female, a business management organization for women entrepreneurs
July 22, 2008	Cigarette Enforcement Program Seminar co-hosted with the Orange County Korean American Grocers Association (OC KAGRO)
August 18, 2008	Joint Alcoholic Beverage Control and Board of Equalization LEAD Seminar co-hosted with the Orange County Korean American Grocers Association (OC KAGRO)
September 16, 2008	Basic Sales and Use Tax Seminar co-hosted with the Korean American Federation of Greater Sacramento

Involvement with Korean American Organizations: Board Member Steel is a member of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles, an advisory member of the Korean American Businesswomen Association, Orange County and East LA Korean American Grocers Association (KAGRO), Korean American Advisory Commission for Orange County District Attorney Tony Raucaukas, a member of the Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification of Korea, and a former board member of Korean American Coalition National.

Korean Board of Equalization Website: Board Member Steel launched a Korean webpage that will guide many Korean American business owners to Board of Equalization publications in Korean as well as different resources that are important to the Korean American community.